

Hawaiian Gazette

12-PAGE EDITION.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1893.

CAPT. NOTTAGE in a letter published this morning supplies extracts from figures furnished him by Mr. C. J. Lyons, which show the storm of the last five days to have been unprecedentedly heavy. At this writing the prospect of rain does not seem entirely over, so that the record of all previous Februaries since rain records were, bids fair to be broken.

THE appointment of S. M. Damon as Vice President of the Executive Council has met with general approval, as Mr. Damon's well-known conservatism and moderation, coupled with his integrity and business ability, command confidence. The office of Vice President is, like that of the members of the Advisory Council, unsalaried, and will remain honorary except in case of the sickness or other disability of the President.

MR. ASHFORD is going to contribute "Brieflets," as he denominates his crisp little paragraphs, to the columns of the Holomua. The Holomua is a rank royalist. It dotes on monarchy and worships kings and queens of every shade. In every well regulated pack the knave, of course, bows to the king and Queen. Mr. Ashford, on the other hand, is a red Republican. What is the meaning of his new editorial allegiance? Does he intend to be the third knave in the pack?

MR. C. J. LYONS furnishes some statistics of rainfall in this morning's paper which will make those uninitiated in the mysteries of tropical climates stare and gasp. Noah himself, if he had a rain gauge, could hardly have conscientiously sworn to more than twelve inches in five hours. The district of Kan, Hawaii, where it notoriously never rains at all, is yet to be heard from, but an old resident of that quasi-Sahara claims to have seen fifteen inches in two hours or so wash everything which was not spiked down out to sea.

NEW YORK OBSERVER.

An article republished this morning from the New York Observer affords fresh evidence that American interest in these islands is great and steadily growing, while there is an increasingly strong feeling that the policy of the United States requires the maintenance of American predominance here. The writer of the article in question is evidently a frank believer in annexation, and his reference to the possibility of events here forcing the issue at once shows that he has not been writing in the dark. The New York Observer is not a sensational journal and its views will not only command attention and influence many directly, but they are further important because they are typical of a very large class.

It is interesting to note that the article above mentioned was published January 12th. The revolution began just two days later.

AFTER THE FACTS.

The investigation which the Government has instituted in regard to the Board of Health, will meet with the sympathy of all who favor an honest administration of affairs. There are those who believe in hushing up scandals of this kind. We are not of their opinion. The fullest and most searching inquiry should be made, no matter whose character suffers. The Board of Health is believed not to be the only Bureau of the Government which has been defrauded by dishonest contractors. If this is true, it should be shown to be so by proofs, while if it is false, the persons implicated are equally entitled to have its falsity made apparent. Inquiries of this kind are not pleasant to make, and the task of

the Government is not an enviable one. None the less, it was right that it should be undertaken, and we believe it will be carried out with thoroughness and fidelity.

The course of Mr. Reynolds in the entire transaction marks him as a faithful and scrupulously conscientious official, as indeed his many years of service had long since proved him to be.

ENTRANCE PERMITS.

An important notice appears in this number relative to the issue of permits to Chinese. It contains the regulations provided for by the Act approved on the 11th of January, of the current year, and these should be carefully read by all who are interested in the subject. The issue of these permits is surrounded with so many safeguards, that the possibility of fraud is almost excluded. In the case of permits to enter the kingdom granted to merchants abroad having business interests here, a \$500 bond is required, conditioned upon the departure of the merchant or traveler within the prescribed limit of six months. The bondsmen must be residents of this kingdom. Another useful provision requires that the statements upon the strength of which entrance permits are issued to women and children under ten years having relatives or guardians in this country, shall be certified to by the Chinese Commercial Agent.

Each applicant for a permit must provide four photographs of himself, two in profile and two full face. Chinese who have become naturalized and Chinese born in this country do not require permits, but a certificate is substituted upon the facts having been properly ascertained.

1794 vs. 1893.

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has sustained a conviction for the offense of selling a newspaper on Sunday. An extract from the decision will be found in another column. It was given under a statute which dates from the last decade of the eighteenth century. The men who drafted this statute would open their eyes if they could step for a moment into the press rooms of the New York World, and see the row of huge presses which turn out the modern newspaper at the rate of one or two hundred thousand per hour. Steam and electricity have revolutionized the world since 1794, and this mighty bound forward in the physical appliances of civilization has not left unchanged the ideas and moral judgments of men. The question of the desirability of Sunday newspapers, abstractly considered, may well be regarded as an open one. In practice, however, it was settled long ago. The Sunday newspaper is here, and has evidently come to stay, and its existence cannot possibly be endangered by the terms of any law which is a hundred years old. The newspaper will remain, and the law will go.

It seems strange to think of settling so modern a matter as that of selling newspapers on Sunday by reference to the terms of a law passed a hundred years ago, in an age which knew not Sunday papers, by men the fashion of whose minds, like the cut of whose garments, belonged to another world than ours. In this age of lightning progress, laws are outgrown before they can be changed, and legislators seem laggards. Science throws new light on old truths, and the new generation, instead of treading reverently in the footsteps of the fathers, feels that it has been "suckled in a creed outworn." The Pennsylvania judge however did his duty when he applied the law as he found it, and it is for the legislature to wipe the anachronism from the books.

OPEN DOORS.

The Provisional Government derived its authority from a successful popular uprising. A government instituted under such circum-

stances was never yet conducted in its beginnings according to the formula which rule in ordinary cases. Such a government must be compact, capable of speedy and decisive action, and secret. It must not be tangled up in red tape, and the touch of a button must set its machinery in motion. The rules in short which govern the exercise of military and naval authority, and not those of ordinary civil procedure, furnish the analogy which it should follow. Battle ships and armies could never face the enemy successfully if they were run by newspapers, legislatures and public opinion. A provisional government, which has just emerged from the stormy waves of revolution, has the same difficulties before it, and they must be met by the same methods. It cannot wait to consult the varying tastes and fancies of the inhabitants of remote and inaccessible country districts, before it sets its course. It cannot take the gossips of the street corner into its confidence.

When, however, the emergencies of the first days have passed away—when the reins of power have been gathered into a firm hand, the wheels of government well greased, the ordinary course of law restored, and the routine of business resumed; when the passion of the first conflict has subsided, and feeling has returned to its ordinary modes of expression, a different rule should prevail. The community should, as far as possible, be taken into the confidence of the Government, and the counsels of the latter should in general be made public.

We are happy to announce that this is the view of the matter taken by the gentlemen of the Provisional Government. Yesterday afternoon the Council voted that representatives of the Press should be admitted to its general sessions. This vote might well have been passed Monday, or as soon as martial law was suspended, but among the pressure of other matters nothing was done about it.

We believe it will be generally admitted that the members of the Provisional Government have exercised their powers with an admirable moderation. These powers have been exceedingly wide, almost unlimited in their scope, and afforded both the opportunity and the temptation to abuse. Had they been less discreetly used the result might have been disastrous, certainly a general feeling of dissatisfaction would have intervened. That this has not been the case must be set down in part to the wisdom of those in authority, but in part also to the patience and good sense of the community, which has recognized the necessity of reposing in the government a larger measure of confidence, and of delegating to it a wider authority than are ordinarily required. Mistakes have been made, and there has been plenty of criticism, some of it well founded and some of it not. But in general it may be said that there has been a hearty co-operation between the government and its supporters, which has made much for present strength, and which is a good sign for the future.

IN ANOTHER column will be found an interesting interview with Mr. J. S. Emerson, in which a full account is given of his remarks at the meeting of the Society for the Suppression of Idolatry. Very few people, indeed, none at all outside of those who have made a study of the subject, have any idea of the prevalence of heathen practices, and of the strong root which the old superstitions still have in the minds of the people. These ideas and practices are by no means confined to non-Christians, but they are more or less prevalent in the churches. We have collected some very interesting facts on this subject, all based upon the testimony of native Hawaiians, which we will shortly lay before our readers.

OUR ISLAND NEIGHBORS.

There seems no doubt, says the New York Observer, of January 12, that the time is near at hand when the United States will be forced to consider seriously what permanent relations it shall bear to the neighboring islands which, independent or owing allegiance to other nations, have by irresistible gravitation become its commercial dependencies. With respect to Hawaii final decision may be forced at any moment by a revolutionary movement fatal to the reigning house, while the Cuban question is fast becoming an American one in the incompetence of the Spanish government to rule, the desire of the people for annexation to the United States, and the fact that the island is already a commercial dependency of this country. The letters of a staff correspondent of the Tribune, of this city, leave no doubt of the favor with which annexation is regarded by all classes of the population, save the meagre handful of officials sent out by the mother country to administer the government of the island, an administration conducted with the sole view of exacting the largest possible amount of revenue.

This popular attitude is in marked contrast to that which obtained prior to the Civil War, when the question of Cuban annexation was raised by the Southern slave owners, and is due to the change in economic conditions which has transferred the market of the island from Europe to America, and to the conviction of the people that the only relief from misgovernment and ruin is to be found in political union with the United States. Indeed, so settled is the conviction of the islanders, Spaniards and native Cubans alike, that both their material and political interests are indissolubly allied with those of this country, that the fact has passed out of the range of discussion; no question existing that as a part of the American Union a market would be found for the sale of their produce and from which supplies could be obtained free from taxation, and that their local government would be conducted by the people for the people. If the advantages to the islanders are so great and so potent that it is no wonder that they look to Washington for relief from an almost intolerable position, those on the side of this country, if not so easily defined, are so considerable that they should be carefully weighed, without the prejudice which formerly obtained against responsibility for outlying possessions.

With the extension of its domains from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the interest of the United States in Cuba, like that in Hawaii, has become a vital one, and not only from a commercial but a military point of view vastly superior to that possessed by any European power. The time is rapidly approaching when the Washington government will control an isthmian canal, and whether it be either the Panama or Nicaragua canal, the strategic position of Cuba will be of commanding importance to it and the island one of the keys that should be in American hands. With the formidable line of marine fortresses established by England off the Atlantic seaboard, reaching from Halifax to Bermuda and thence to Jamaica and Castries, if the canal is completed without the acquisition of a commanding naval station in the West Indies, Britain will control its entrance. With the nearest American base of supplies at New Orleans, and without a naval station in West Indian waters, England, with her powerful fortifications at St. Lucia and Kingston, her navy yards and coaling stations, can close the canal to American commerce and convert it into an English waterway at will. To wait to acquire properties capable of impregnable defence and affording facilities for preventing such attack, until the emergency requiring them arises, will be to wait too long, and it is a serious question whether the time has not come for decisive action in the matter. It is all the more a question because if Americans do not recognize the commercial and political value of Cuba, it is evident that other nations do, and that in the financial embarrassments of Spain there is grave danger that some lease of the revenues of the island may be made to the banking syndicates of London and Paris. Such a lease would mean the government of Cuba from London and its ultimate reversion, like that of Egypt, to the British Government, and the realization of that constant nightmare to those that think at all of the subject—the passage of the island under foreign and inimical control, with untold damage to American trade and prestige.

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